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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): M. SASAMOTO, et al

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Examiner:

Technology Center 2100

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

December 26, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the original specification with the attached Substitute Specification.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please amend the abstract of the disclosure as follows: